



The Indo Project

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THE INDO PROJECT

Honor the Past. Preserve the Future.

On behalf of The Indo Project, I am writing to express my support for the proposed revision in the 10th grader's textbook curriculum to include the history that is euphemistically known as the 'Comfort Women.' It is one of the darkest chapters of human history where Japanese Imperial Armed Forces forced hundreds of thousands of women (some estimate as many as 400,000, taken at least from 11 different countries) into the world's largest and longest-run human trafficking from 1932 until 1945, the end of WWII, for the purpose of Military Sexual Slavery.

In 2007, US Congress unanimously urged the Japanese government to 1) formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner, 2) have this official apology given as a public statement presented by the Prime Minister of Japan in his official capacity, 3) clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the 'comfort women' for the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces never occurred; and 4) educate current and future generations about this horrible crime while following the recommendations of the international community with respect to the 'comfort women.'

Our schools have demonstrated effective education of global tragedies of the past, and I believe this case should be no different. Just as our commitment to educate our children about the Holocaust has not, and will not, expire with Germany accepting responsibility for this atrocity, I believe that an occurrence of a crime against humanity in itself must be taught in school – even more so when the victims are still demanding full acknowledgement, formal apology and legal reparations from the government that is responsible for this crime against humanity.

I commend the California Department of Education in its effort include this important chapter of human history in our textbook and I wholeheartedly support our teachers to teach our children so that they will learn not to repeat the same mistake.

I thank the Department of Education for its leadership.

~ Inez Hollander, Academic Director, www.theindoproject.org

The Indo Project is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and celebration of Indo Dutch culture and history through education and raising public awareness.